100 signatures say: Save Deeside
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BOROUGH LOOKS TO ALL OUR FUTURES

Your views are needed

PEOPLE in the town are being asked their views about a far-reaching raft of plans which will help shape the borough for many years.

By **Chris Patching**
c.patching@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

The blueprint for the future - being compiled by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council - will guide planning decisions over the next 15 years.

"We have worked hard to come up with a balanced plan to support our borough's future prosperity and protect our existing communities'', said Cabinet Member for Planning Cllr Mark Ruffell, pictured.

He added: "It is important that we move forward to have an adopted plan which will allow the council to control where development goes rather than being forced to accept proposals for other areas which are put forward by developers. We look forward to hearing from our residents through the consultation process on how we can improve the plan."

Once formally adopted, the Local Plan will be the key document that will guide how all future planning applications will be determined. It contains policies on where new development, new homes and new business premises, will be permitted, as well as policies protecting existing communities and the countryside.

There will be exhibitions during the consultation period at the following locations, giving more information about the proposals and policies and how to respond to them:

- Monday, September 9 from 2pm to 8pm at Oakley Village Hall, Andover Road, Oakley
- Wednesday, September 11 from 2pm to 8pm at Sherfield Park Community Centre, Sunwood Drive, Chineham
- Friday, September 13 from 2pm to 8pm at Bramley Village Hall, The Street, Bramley
- Monday, September 16 from 2pm to 8pm at Overton Community Centre, Winchester Street, Overton
- Tuesday, September 17 from

• *Continued on page two*

Man charged with grandad's murder

A MAN has appeared in court charged with the murder of grandad Stephan Hollow.

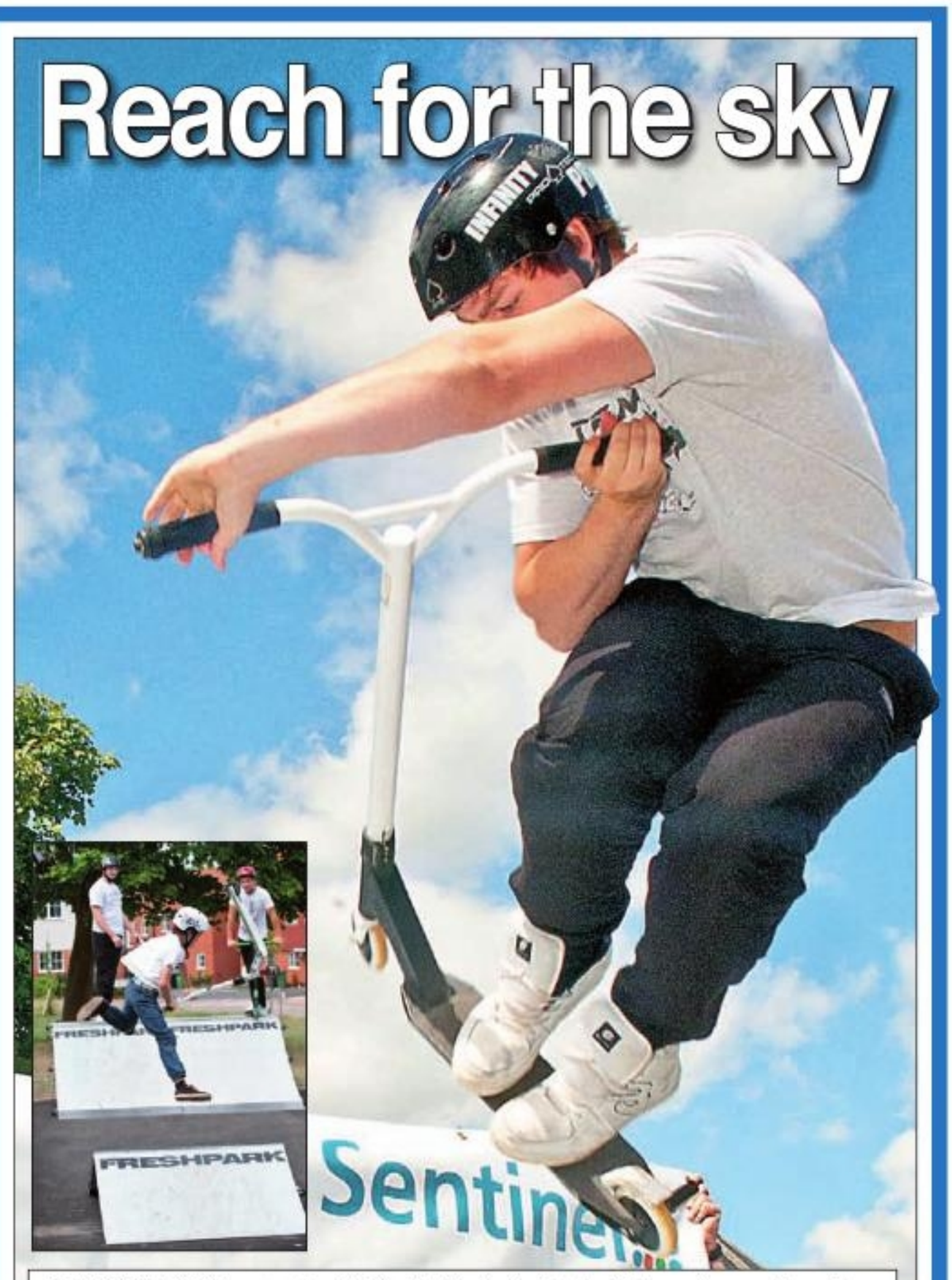
William John Smith, 27, of Pershore Road, Basingstoke, appeared at the town's magistrate's court last Thursday and was remanded in custody to appear at Winchester Crown Court for a hearing on Tuesday.

District Judge Philip Gillibrand said: "This case must be transferred to Winchester Crown Court."

Smith, who was dressed in a black T-shirt and trousers, spoke only to confirm his name, address and date of birth.

Mr Hollow suffered stab wounds and was found outside his home in Blackdown Close during the early hours of Monday morning last week.

Reach for the sky



TWENTY-NINE youngsters ramped up the fun at an extreme scooter event.

Aged five to 17, they enjoyed the thrills and spills of the high-octane sport at Bishops Green.

The Community Youth Project's Team Extreme scooter event at Beech Road Open Space also attracted family and friends.

Ian Green, the Community Youth Project's Youth Worker / Project Manager said: "Huge thanks go to everyone at Sentinel Housing Association for funding our Team Extreme Scooter event.

"Thankfully there were no injuries, other than a grazed knee and the atmosphere was great, with parents and family members watching throughout.

"It was amazing to watch Grit pro team rider, Ryan McNamara, and Razor pro team rider, Joe McDonald, perform complex and dangerous tricks on our small folding ramps, with both attempting scooter back flips."

At the end of the event the participants were queuing to get autographs from the two professional riders.

Ian added: "The young people were thrilled."

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Newsdesk
Group Editor: Chris Patching
Telephone: 01235 516930
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Production
Telephone: 01235 516934
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Chief Executive: Howard Taylor

Long term plans for Top of Town

EXPERTS in looking how places can be transformed to give them a more successful future are working on longer term plans for Basingstoke's Top of the Town.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has appointed Urban Initiatives Studios to look at what can be done to improve the way the area looks and its public areas, enhance its role as the historic part of the town centre and attract new businesses and facilities to complement Festival Place and The Malls.

By **Chris Patching**
c.patching@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

The aim is to create a vision to guide further work to improve the area in the longer term. This will be used to develop council policy, for example in areas such as licensing and planning. Work will be starting shortly on getting existing businesses and representatives of other Top of Town groups involved in developing the proposals over the next few months.

And to ensure that the town centre community is kept involved and informed every step of the way in planning the future of the area, a group representing different types of traders, businesses, landlords and organisations in the town centre is being set up. The first meeting of the fledgling Basingstoke Town Centre Forum is due to be held in September, following up on the support expressed for setting it up at a summit meeting bringing together businesses and other organisations in July.

The council's Deputy Leader Cllr Ranil Jayawardena said: "The Top of Town is our historic heart and we are keen to ensure it is not left behind as Basingstoke storms forward into the 21st Century. Significant progress is already being made on our pledged improvements - but a longer term vision is vital to define the area's role in the town centre and set out a clear way forward for its successful revitalisation. It was great to meet such a wide range of people at the Town Centre Summit.

"This confirmed that there is strong support for working together to improve its attractiveness, vibrancy and promotion. I want the Town Centre Forum to harness all this local knowledge, ideas, support and enthusiasm to take Top of the Town forward."

In the shorter term, options for upgrading benches, landscape planters, bollards and other 'street furniture' in the public spaces in Top of Town are being explored. The aim is to consult on this in the autumn and start work early next year.

For more information see www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/townchanges.

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Top award for the Fleet Pond Restoration Project

VISITORS to Fleet Pond over the past year have been witness to the vast amount of work taking place as a result of the Fleet Pond Restoration Project.

Now this outstanding work has been recognised by the Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE) which has named the project the winner of its 'Sustainability and Environment Award'.

This Award recognises the excellence of the works carried out by the Fleet Pond Restoration Project Team consisting of the Environment Agency, Fleet Pond Society, Hart District Council, Johns Associates, Natural England and WM Longreach.

The works involved dredging the lake and reusing the sediment to create islands to act as wind barriers to stop silt clouding the water. Retaining structures were installed to ensure the silt does not spread back over the pond base and the islands will allow colonisation by native reeds thus creating new habitats. The project was funded through Environment Agency and Natural England Water Framework Directive.

Cllr Sara Kinnell, Hart District Council portfolio holder for Leisure and Environmental Promotion said: "It is a great achievement for a well deserving project."

Colin Gray, Chairman of Fleet Pond Society said: "To win is a very clear recognition of the achievement by the Project Team. Johns Associates and WM Longreach deserve special praise for the design and construction work."

• Fleet Pond Resoration Project has scooped a 'Sustainability and Environment' award

Borough looks to our futures - views sought

• *From front page*

2pm to 8pm at Whitchurch Parish Hall, London Street, Whitchurch

• Wednesday, September 18 from 2pm to 8pm at the Ridgeway Centre, Blackdown Close, Buckskin, Basingstoke

• Friday, September 20 from 2pm to 8pm at the Fieldgate Centre, Fieldgate Drive, Kingsclere

• Monday, September 23 from 9am to 5pm at the Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke

The plan allows for 748 new homes per year to be built up to 2029 to meet the borough's needs, primarily around Basingstoke, where the need for housing is greatest and development can be supported by services and facilities. Lower levels of development have also been focused in Bramley, Kingsclere, Oakley, Overton and Whitchurch. Greenfield housing sites are also proposed in the Plan.

As this is a 'formal' legal stage in the process of consultation any comments on the Local Plan must relate to whether it has been prepared in the right way and whether it is 'sound'. Responses have to be submitted in a set way on a standard form, which is available online or from the council with guidance on how to fill it in.

Residents are being urged to comment on the draft Local Plan in a consultation running until Friday, October 4.

The draft Local Plan along with detailed assessments, maps and supporting documents and an online response form are available at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/localplan. Copies of all the documents are also available to view at the Civic Offices and at all libraries in the borough.

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Deeside petitioners top 1000 signatures

By **Chris Patching**
c.patching@basingstokeobserver.

IT'S just grand, say petiitoners! Around 1,000 signatures have now been collected in the fight to save Basingstoke's Deeside care home for elderly people from closure.

Campaigners were out in force in the town centre on Saturday and collected a further 300 names in their fight against Hampshire County Council's (HCC) proposals.

"How dare the county council remove vulnerable people from their homes" and "we may need this home one day" summed up the feeling of shoppers.

Eugene Oakes, a relative of a resident, said: "My mum is 81 years old has been living at Deeside for 13 years. She is settled, happy with her home and was very distressed when she was told of the potential closure.

"Not only is it her home but her 'End of Life statement' expresses a desire for her ashes to be scattered under the Magnolia tree outside the front of the main entrance.

"The staff at Deeside have agreed to make sure this happens.

"I think this really conveys how my mum feels about Deeside, so only will she lose her home but she can no longer fulfil her wish upon passing.

"I feel this is extremely important to my mum and I would like it known that HCC will be disregarding the wishes expressed by an ageing lady upon her death. Somewhat difficult if the site is levelled!"

Debbie Long, another relative of a resident, said: "Deeside has a 'home to home feel', the staff seem and our in my opinion genuine caring empathetic staff. Nothing is to much trouble for the staff."

Councillor Ray Finch said: "Deeside is needed because it makes vulnerable people feel safe."

Alan Stone UKIP Basingstoke chairman and treasurer of the Deeside campaign group, concluded: "Deeside is Home to a small group of vulnerable, elderly people.

"They are an easy target for the bully boys (and girls) of the county council."

• Protesters Ann Williams, Nigel Johnson, Hugh Sawyer, Alan Stone (UKIP chairman and Deeside campaign group treasurer) Anne Rushbrooke (UKIP), Anne King (UKIP), Cllr Ray Finch (UKIP HCC), Les Sennet, a lady protester and Cllr Tony Hooke (UKIP HCC) Photo: Alan Stone

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Talking about benefit change

WITH the way benefits are received and also the amount of money residents get changing Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is helping residents to make sure they are ready by organising a free advice event on Monday, September 9.

Residents unsure of the impact of the welfare reform changes will be able to get free help and advice as well as an opportunity to talk through their financial situation and look at future options during an open afternoon held at The Malls Shopping Centre.

The event, from 12pm until 4pm, will include expert advice in a private advice centre from a range of organisations including; Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's housing and benefit officers, local housing associations including Sovereign, Sentinel, Affinity Sutton, Guinness, the Citizen's Advice Bureau, floating support services including First Point and Stonham, Department of Work and Pensions, A4E and the job club.

Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration Cllr Rob Golding said: "It is important people do not bury their heads in the sand and act early to get the right help and advice."

For more information about the event visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/benefitadvice or call the council on 01256 844844.

Anti-war activists set up camp

ANTI-NUCLEAR activists this week set up a camp outside the AWE premises in Burghfield for a series of peaceful protests.

The group moved in at the weekend and plans to show its opposition to plans for replacing Britain's Trident nuclear missiles system. Activists want the nuclear missiles, which are assembled, maintained and eventually decommissioned by AWE, banned. "The products and their assembly should be stopped", said an activist.

MoD police say the campaigners are on MoD land and will continue to monitor the situation. The campaigners have said they will leave on Saturday next week.

Car dealer Keith says 'thank you'

• Keith Toogood is retiring

A CAR dealer who has been at the centre of village life for the past 20 years is wringing out his chamois leather and retiring.

And Keith Toogood has been quick to praise parishioners in Oakley near Basingstoke for their backing over the years.

"People have been so friendly and supportive. In a lot of ways I will be very sad to go", said the Oakley Village Car Sales boss.

By way of a final 'goodbye' Keith is currently holding a closing down sale at his showrooms in Oakley Lane and all his motors are reduced in price.

He, or his son Lee, can be contacted either at the premises or www.oakleyvillagecarsales.co.uk

The grandfather, who lives locally with his wife Shirley, added: "Now I'm looking to my freedom to pursue other interests."

His business closes on September 30.

DJ Andrew plays tunes for celebs at V Festival

A VIGIN MEDIA worker from Basingstoke won the opportunity of a lifetime to DJ at the exclusive, and a favourite with the celebrities, Virgin Media Louder Lounge at V Festival, Chelmsford.

Andrew Lang, pictured, a Commercial Business Partner at Virgin Media, took part in a staff competition for the chance to play two sets in Virgin Media's hospitality area at the Virgin Media Louder Lounge.

The 31 year old entertained celebrities such as Cara Delevigne, Niall Horan, The Saturdays and Pixie Lott and received an excitable response from the crowd.

Andrew has been DJing since he was 14 and after falling ill decided to host and DJ at a weekly event called Cured, to raise money for Cancer Research – he was extremely excited to have won this opportunity to DJ to such a star studded audience.

Ade Spooner, Virgin Media's Creative Director, who helped pick Andrew said: "We looked for a DJ that broke the conventions of a traditional dance floor DJ.

"The Virgin Media Louder Lounge is an oasis within the party fun time that is V Festival.

"Andrew's set added a nice twist on a sunny afternoon, good time vibes that got Louder Loungers ready to party throughout the weekend."

• DJ Andrew Lang

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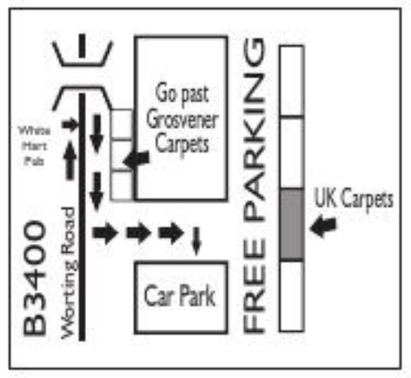

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LOOK FOR THE UNION JACKS

CarFest? Let's do it all again - Evans

BEAMING CarFest host Chris Evans reflected on three fun-filled family days raising funds for Children in Need and roared "Let's do it again!'

By **Chris Patching**
c.patching@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Staged at Laverstoke Park Farm near Basingstoke and hosted by the BBC Radio 2 broadcaster, the latest CarFest has been hailed as the 'best yet'.

"We laughed, we laughed and we laughed again. CarFest South has been a fantastic blast and the best so far," said a delighted, if exhausted, Evans. "Somehow this has topped the huge success of last year. We've had even more fun and raised even more money. Let's do it again!"

Last year's inaugural two CarFests in 2012 raised an impressive £968,735 for BBC Children in Need and this summer's pair of enlarged festivals have already generated more than a further million pounds for the charity.

Following the huge success of CarFest North staged at Oulton Park in Cheshire earlier this month, CarFest South again served up a feast of fabulous cars, sumptuous food and stirring live music performances played to sell out crowds numbering close to 60,000 over three days of epic entertainment.

This year's lengthened hill-climb course hosted dramatic demonstration runs by a stunning selection of cars ranging from a whacky motorised garden shed to F1 cars driven by former world champion and Laverstoke owner Jody Scheckter. These included his six-wheeled Tyrrell as well as his title-winning Ferrari. Visit the official Carfest website at www.carfest.org.

• Photos courtesy of CarFest

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The business is continually expanding and includes a new mobile tyre fitting and home start service. A comprehensive diagnostic service can also be provided and the business issues many dealer level tools ranging from Ford, Jaguar to Land Rover and Volkswagen.

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More complex issues include an Engine Control Unit (ECU) remapping service which makes the vehicle more responsive and smoother to driver. In these tough time, it also slightly increases the miles-per-gallon!

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GCSE results: top of the class

HAMPSHIRE'S 16 year olds have achieved impressive GCSE results again this year.

By **Chris Patching**
c.patching@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Provisional results reported by Hampshire's secondary schools show an increase in achievement with 60.4 per cent achieving five A* to C GCSE passes, including English and Mathematics. It compares favourably with the national picture in 2012 where 58 per cent of students achieved the same measure.

"Hampshire's 16 year olds should be commended for their achievement, demonstrating that their effort and hard work has reaped rewards", said Councillor Peter Edgar, Executive Member for Education at Hampshire County Counci.:

He added: "We appreciate the support of parents and the work of teachers in helping these students to do well and I'm sure they are proud of the students' high levels of attainment. It is reassuring to know that these students now have the opportunity to build on their KS4 accomplishment, as they move into further education or training to study for A-Levels or vocational skills and qualifications.

"We are still in a time where the economic climate is challenging and the competition for jobs is high, so enabling young people to obtain the best qualifications and develop the highest standard of skills that they can, will stand them in good stead. On behalf of the County Council, I wish them every success."

English and Mathematics performance in Hampshire has also been strong this year with 67 per cent and 72 per cent respectively, achieving A* to C grades. This compares strongly with this year's national figures of 64 per cent and 58 per cent. 24 per cent of Hampshire students have also achieved the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) against a 2012 national figure of 16 per cent. Many students also studied for a range of other qualifications including diplomas, BTECs and National Vocational Qualifications.

Around 13,000 students in Hampshire sat their Key Stage 4 (KS4) examinations this summer. Five or more A* to C grades including mathematics and English is the government target for pupils at the end of Year 11 (aged 16), and achieving this provides young people with a springboard for further study. When the official results are published later in the Autumn, schools will also be judged against some new targets including the progress children have made in English and mathematics and their performance in their 'best eight' subjects.

Changes in education legislation mean that those completing their secondary education this summer will not be 'school leavers' any more but will continue in education or training for at least a further academic year. More than 12,000 (94%) of students have already secured a place at college, or are set to take up an apprenticeship from September.

The aim is to give all young people the opportunity to develop their skills and qualifications, enabling them either to go on to university, or to secure entry into a career or skilled trade.

We Tweet... Do you?
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Water rocket challenge is hardly a damp squib!

• An instructor puts a pupil's rocket through its paces

A TEAM from Aldermaston's AWE has helped budding scientists at a Berkshire primary school take part in a specially designed water rocket challenge.

The event, designed for pupils at Ashford Hill Primary School, in Thatcham, took place recently.

The task was to use a combination of water and air pressure to propel a rocket – made from a family-sized fizzy drinks bottle – and see how far it van travel. Using a combination of water and air pressure, entries were judged on distance, time in the air, and overall design, and ability to please the crowd. The challenge aims to nurture the interest of young people in science, engineering and technology throughout the different stages of their education.

AWE's Nigel Watts, from Production Engineering, helped stage the event and said: "This kind of competition is a great way to get young people interested in science, engineering and technology in a fun way. The children were very enthusiastic and this was shown in the quality of their rocket designs."

IT sales expert Georgia is on Cloud Nine...

NEWVOICEMEDIA, a leading provider of cloud contact centre solutions based in Basingstoke, Hampshire, has appointed Georgia Thomas as Partner Marketing Manager.

Georgia joins the Sales & Marketing team at NewVoiceMedia's Basing View offices where she will be responsible for developing the company's partner marketing relationship to and through Salesforce to secure its position as global partner of choice for cloud contact centre technology. NewVoiceMedia's ContactWorld solutions integrate with Salesforce to enable customers to quickly and easily deliver a personalised and unique customer experience, quickly and securely. In addition, she will work alongside implementation, ISV, SI and AppExchange partners.

Georgia joins with immediate effect and brings over eight years of marketing, event and business development experience to the role. Prior to NewVoiceMedia she ran her own consultancy and has held positions at Reed Elsevier, Business Monitor International and Euromoney Institutional Investor. A member of The Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM), Georgia is also undertaking a part-time MBA at the London School of Marketing.

• Georgia Thomas

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Readers' letters

To submit a letter or comment
The Letters Editor, Newspaper House, 4A Hawksworth, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 7HR
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Our's is a thriving time and it's continually improving all the time

Dear Sir,

WHEN is an empty shop not an empty shop? When it's in a thriving town that's improving all the time. This administration has committed over £600,000 to be spent through its Town Centre Programme between 2012 and 2015. In 2013/14 alone, a budget of £268,000 including a £100,000 grant from the Government has been agreed.

This is money being spent to improve the Top of Town by improving signage and street furniture and supporting programmes that will work to fill those units that are currently vacant. One such programme is our plan with BCOT, an example of what we can do to support the Top of Town, filling vacant premises, bringing a different retail offer and providing an opportunity for the entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

These are just some of the things the Conservatives are doing to improve the town and I really believe we're on the right track – it's led to Waitrose and John Lewis coming to Basingstoke too. It's the Conservatives that have made regenerating Basing View a priority, recognising its importance to the town and it's through that work that we have these new businesses coming to the area.

The most important thing now is that people are aware of facts not fiction. Some people love to talk the town down; perhaps if they look at the facts they'd see we're doing better than the national average. Just one example: in The Malls, just 1 per cent of space is vacant. There's still work to be done but we're in a much better place than we could be – and we're doing the right things to make it better.

Cllr Ranil Jayawardena , Deputy Leader
Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council

Parking revenues: the facts laid bare

Dear Editor,

I refer to Cllr Connor's letter dated 26 July and as the relevant Cabinet member I would like to comment as follows.

Firstly, in terms of finances, I am pleased to confirm that the council is complying with the legal requirements. Parking revenue is spent on paying for parking services, as well as general transport services like parking improvements in residential areas, public transport support to operators, and highway maintenance and improvement. Indeed, in the current year, the total annual spend on these initiatives exceeds our projected parking income by over £400,000. As a matter of interest, the council actually subsidises the operation of on-street parking enforcement on behalf of HCC via the Traffic Management Agency Agreement. In short, we do not use parking charges and fines as a "tax" on the borough's motorists to pay for other unrelated council services. Indeed, we only increased in our charges for parking in the council's car parks by an average of around 2% this year and there was no increase in charges for residents' parking permits and visitors' permits. Our car parking and residents' parking charges are still lower than many other local authorities and our car parking charges are lower than those for Festival Place.

Cllr Connor expresses concern that new charges "could exceed three and a half times the existing levels" This is scaremongering, as so far officers have merely proposed some policy principles for comment by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. I will be making a decision on which policy principles to endorse in September and decisions on charging for 2014/15 will not be taken by Cabinet until early next year. With regard to Fairfield's School, I understand the concerns of the Head Teacher about the possible loss of on-street permit car parking for some of her teachers, but residents, having paid for permits to park near their homes, can sometimes have difficulty finding spaces. I would be very happy to meet with Cllr Connor and discuss any concerns his residents may have at any time .

Cllr Mrs Cathy Osselton, Cabinet Member for Partnerships.

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Grant aid helps volunteers spruce up for bike repairs

• A helper paints walls following a lottery grant donation

FOLLOWING receipt of an 'Awards for All' Lottery grant of £9,500, the Basingstoke Community Furniture Project is busy turning one of its old storerooms into a new bicycle repair workshop. The Furniture Project is already well-known in the town for its good quality, recycled furniture and the new 'Re-bike' project will enable it to repair old bicycles too, and sell them at low cost to the local community.

Basingstoke Furniture Project Manager, Phelim O'Hagan, said "We are delighted to receive this generous lottery grant, as it is beneficial in so many ways. It will allow us to train disadvantaged young people in a new skill which we hope will help them to find jobs, it will stop so many useable bikes ending up in landfill and we can sell the repaired bikes in our showroom at a price that we hope will be in everyone's reach."

You've gotta be in it to win it...

St Michael's Hospice has announced the results of lottery draw 277 held on August 23.
First prize of £1000 to 26610 of Basingstoke, second prize of £100 to 23034 of Whitchurch, third prize of £50 39072 of Hatch Warren, fourth prize of £20 to 40970 of Basingstoke.
Sixteen prizes of £5 got to 09356, 20798, 21336, 21677, 33570, 37237, 42474, 50605, 50644, 51097, 72958, 73217, 80520, 83662, 85872, 85914.

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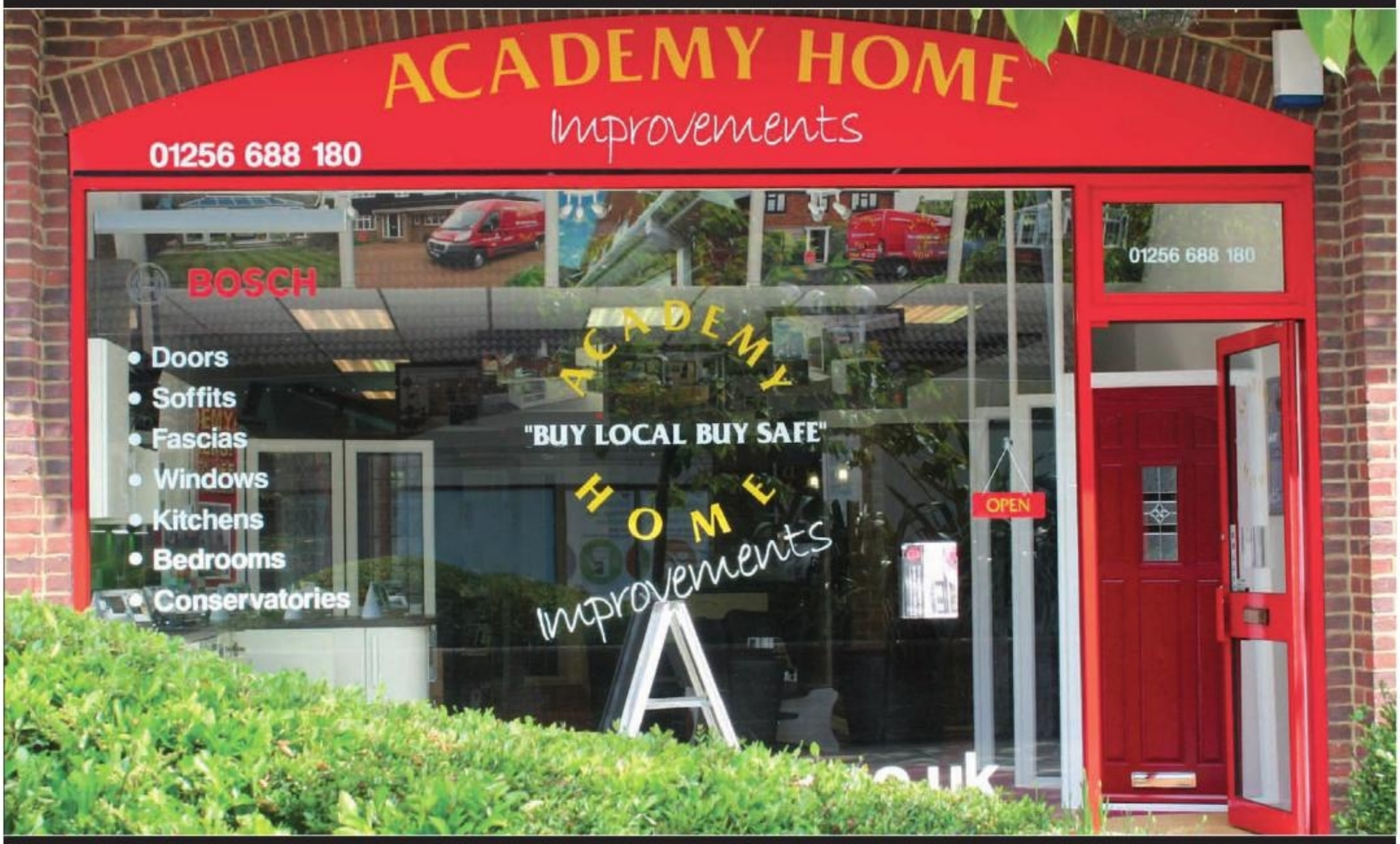

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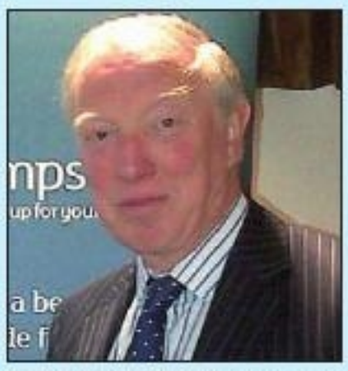

A HAMPSHIRE countryside charity welcomed a new president at its annual general meeting.

Sir James Harris, pictured, 7th Earl of Malmesbury takes over as president of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (Hampshire) from Admiral Sir Brian Brown who has held the post for five years.

Sir Brian said: "Sir James is a countryman and no-one could be better qualified to be our president."

The Earl of Malmesbury's family has farmed in the county since 1800 and the family seat is near Odiham in north-east Hampshire.

Christopher Napier, chair of the Planning and Policy group in CPRE Hampshire, gave a detailed review of the year which highlighted some of the challenges ahead and the successful work by volunteers during the year.

Further advice and a template letter are available from the office by telephoning 01962 779185.

There's lots of holiday reading to choose from

WITH thousands of eBooks and eAudio titles now available from Hampshire County Council's Library Service, there is plenty of holiday reading to choose from this summer that won't take up luggage space.

By **Chris Patching**
c.patching@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Library users can also enjoy free internet access in all County Council run libraries from the end of August, so people can use their own laptops and tablets in the county's biggest Discovery Centres or the smallest local libraries.

Since eBooks and eAudio titles were launched in 2009 they have been hugely popular among Hampshire's library card holders, and figures show more people are now using this high-tech way of accessing the books they love. Last year there were almost 74,000 downloads – up around a fifth on the year before. Meanwhile, since April this year alone there have been nearly 35,000 downloads.

Customers can access free loans of up to five eBooks/eAudiobooks at a time from www.hants.gov.uk/library , and the online collection now includes an impressive 9,674 titles and 2,555 audio books.

The most popular genres with eLibrary users are crime and thrillers, Sci Fi, historical, biographies and romance, while authors that feature frequently in the top 20 include:

Dan Brown
Stieg Larsson
James Patterson
Lee Child

The most popular children's authors include:

Jacqueline Wilson
JK Rowling
Michael Morpurgo
Lemony Snicket.

Young readers can enjoy around 600 eBooks and eAudio titles for children and teenagers from Hampshire's Library Service.

For those looking to get away this summer, there are also hundreds of travel books in the collection which can accompany you on your journey via portable devices, without taking up valuable luggage space.

If the title is on loan it can be reserved free of charge. An e-mail alerts customers that it has become available and they have 24 hours to download it. Library users can even recommend titles they would like to see in stock.

Visit www.hants.gov.uk/library where you can also sign up and become a new library member.

• Basingstoke MP Maria Miller and the town's Mayor Dan Putty

VIP guests open Cafe Dome's new patio

BASINGSTOKE MP Maria Miller joined the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, Cllr Dan Putty, at the recent opening of a new patio area at the Cafe Dome in Brighton Hill.

The Cafe Dome is a community cafe, which was opened two years ago to give young people with learning disabilities the opportunity to train and work in a cafe open to the public. The patio at the rear of the cafe has been developed as an outdoor seating area and was funded by De La Rue. Maria said: "I was delighted to be asked to officially "open" the new patio area at the Cafe Dome. This is a brilliant project, providing an important training facility for young adults with learning difficulties.

"It's also a really bright and welcoming place to come for a coffee and a bite to eat, and is clearly popular with the local community. The new patio area is a great addition, thanks to De La Rue who have supported the Cafe from the outset."

- Advertorial -

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Businesses urged to get INSPIRED by awards

HART District Council are urging local businesses to take part in the INSPIRE13 Business Awards.

The awards are open to businesses from across the region, including Fleet, Odiham, Yateley, Aldershot and Basingstoke, and will ensure leading local businesses (both large and small) gain the recognition they deserve for themselves and most importantly for the dedication and commitment of their staff.

There are thirteen award categories to enter, so there is at least one category suitable for most businesses. To enter your business, or a business you feel worthy of an award, please visit www.inspirebusinessawards.co.uk.

Councillor Ken Crookes, Leader of Hart District Council said: "Hart District Council are proud to be sponsors of these awards which recognise the strength and innovation of local businesses. Award winners get the recognition which helps to promote their business and I would encourage them to take a careful look at the awards and enter."

The entry process is simple and free. The closing date for entries is August 31 and the judging takes place in September, with finalists announced in early October. Those successfully selected by the judging panel as finalists will also receive two free tickets to the awards dinner.

Old Macdonald comes to life for nursery tots!

THE pre-school children at Kiddi Caru's day nursery in Basingstoke got a special treat recently when they were taken on a day trip to Andover's Finkley Down Farm.

By **Chris Patching**
c.patching@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

The children fed the goats, groomed the horses and even got to stroke some baby chicks during their visit. There are 48 pre-school children at the nursery that will be leaving this year to go to primary school, and the visit was arranged as a farewell treat for them.

Meanwhile, the nursery held a special Graduation ceremony and disco for the children who will be going off to 'big' school in September. They each received a special certificate and had their photograph taken in a mini graduation gown and mortarboard.

Suzanne Chilvers, Nursery Manager, said: "This is an exciting time for our pre-school children but also a period of transition, so we have been doing all we can to make sure they are prepared for leaving to us to start school.

"We've had visits from teachers and the children have also visited their future school and we've also encouraged the children to talk about school as much as possible. They've even had the chance to wear their new school uniform at nursery to help them to get used to it. We hope all of this will help them to make the transition to primary school with confidence."

Kiddi Caru's Basingstoke day nursery provides premium quality childcare for children aged 0 – 5 years.

For further information about Kiddi Caru please visit the website at www.kiddicaru.com,

Like them on Facebook by visiting www.facebook.com/Kiddicaru - or call them on 01256 397779.

• Kiddi Caru pre-school youngsters visited Finkley Down Farm

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Advertorial

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Natalie and Ian have combined the best known and most popular Latin and Ballroom dances to develop a dance fitness programme that delivers results fast. When combined with Rosemary Conley's 40 years' experience of getting the nation to slim down and shape up, the results are amazing! It's dancing to great music without a partner and designed so that even people with two left feet can join in!

"I am thrilled to have teamed up with the creators of FitSteps® to offer this exciting new fitness concept and expect it will be extremely popular with our members as it allows them to learn easy-to-follow dance moves that have been combined with proven fitness techniques. Our taster classes have sold out, and everyone wants to dance like the stars on the TV show."

Classes start from September 3rd. For full details contact Helena on 0118 9889744, or email on Helena.housego@rosemaryconley.com, or message on Facebook at Fitsteps with Helena.

Everyone is welcome, no need to diet, you can just come to dance. Now, even more people around Basingstoke can experience the 'Fitness that's Strictly Fun' – so let's get 'Ready to Rumba!'"

Helena training with Ian Waite and the swimmer Mark Foster, who both have set up the new fitness class FitSteps

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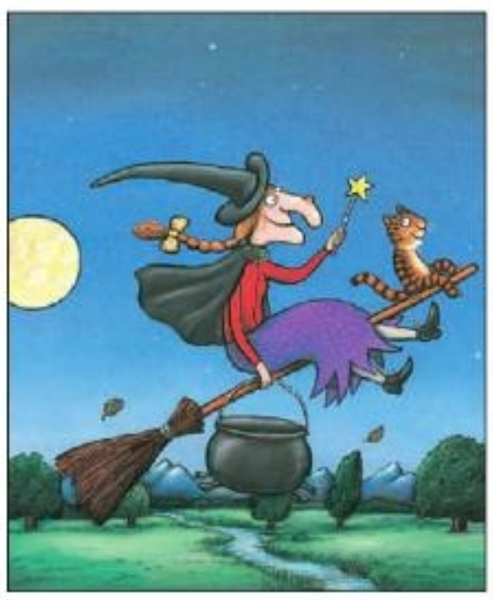
Entertainment

Welcome to our Entertainments page where we are showcasing all that is good in local entertainment ranging from professional to amateur acts.

If you would like your event considered for publication please contact reporter Adam Flinn at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

Is there Room on Broom?



• 'Room on the Broom', based on the book by Julia Donaldson, comes to The Haymarket tomorrow

THE Haymarket reopens after its summer break with a production of the popular children's novel 'Room on the Broom', starting tomorrow until Sunday.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Billed as a fantastic treat for youngsters to round off the school holidays, the show is based on the best-selling book by Children's Laureate Julia Donaldson MBE and Axel Scheffler.

The story follows a witch and her cat, who are flying happily along on their broomstick when a stormy wind blows the witch's hat, bow and wand into the night.

She has to gather up her belongings, and is helped by a daft dog, a beautiful bird and a friendly frog on her journey.

But the broomstick is not built to hold five, and it snaps in two. A hungry dragon then shows up, and it is up to the group to save the poor witch.

The show is produced by the Tall Stories theatre company, who have staged numerous children's shows around the country and worldwide.

They have been performing since 1997, and are currently staging 'My Brother the Robot', 'The Gruffalo's Child' and 'The Snail and the Whale' in various venues nationally as well as 'Room on the Broom'.

Tall Stories created 'Room on the Broom' to follow on from the success of their previous adaptations of Julia Donaldson books, including 'The Gruffalo'.

It premiered in Hemel Hempstead in November 2008, and after touring through 2009 has returned for this year.

Shows take place at 2pm and 4.30pm at The Haymarket tomorrow, and at 11am and 2pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets cost £11.50, and for more information visit www.anvilarts.org.uk or call 01256 844244.

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Entertainment

Welcome to our Entertainments page where we are showcasing all that is good in local entertainment ranging from professional to amateur acts.

If you would like your event considered for publication please contact reporter Adam Flinn at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

Laughs with Proteus

PROTEUS Creation Space is hosting a night of alternative comedy and surreal brilliance tomorrow evening, featuring a range of talented local acts at the venue.

The Comedy Cabaret evening is the result of a collaboration with Phil Jarvis and Imogen Wright of That Comedy Thing, who regularly host fringe comedy nights around Basingstoke.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Multi-award winning comedian Ian Lane headlines the show, with appearances also from Matt Smith, Liam Elvish, Malcolm Julian Swan, David Wiseau and Adam Larter.

Ian builds his set from a selection of autobiographical tales and observations, with poetry, pie charts and one-liners thrown into the mix as well.

He won the annual Comedy Virgins Max Turner Prize competition this year, and regularly performs open spots for Mirth Control, Comedy Kinghts and Crack Comedy.

In the past, he has starred alongside names including Phill Jupitus and Rich Fulcher, making appearances at dozens of venues around London and the rest of the country.

Ian made his Edinburgh debut this year as part of the free Fringe show The Men Who Stare At Jokes; a split stand-up show with him, Alasdair Beckett-King, Ben Clover and Tom Ward in a three-week run.

• Award-winning comedian Ian Lane headlines the Comedy Cabaret tomorrow

Following on from Friday's show, The Comedy Cabaret is set to run as a regular event at Proteus Creation Space.

Tickets for tomorrow's cabaret cost £3, and are available by calling 01256 321621 or visiting www.proteustheatre.com.

The venue also has the Devoted and Disgruntled Roadshow coming up next month, engaging audiences in conversation about theatre and the arts.

A workshop taster day has also been lined up as the new term for classes begins, giving people the chance to experience what the Creation Space has on offer.

Comedy night

THE Phoenix Centre in Bordon is staging a comedy night next Thursday, featuring three comedians and hosted by a hilarious compere for the evening.

It is in association with Screeming Blue Murder, which has been the launching platform for the careers of Eddie Izzard, Frank Skinner and Mark Lamarr, among numerous others.

Next week's show stars comedian Owen O'Neill, and tickets cost £9.50. Contact 01420 472664 or visit www.phoenixarts.co.uk for further details.

Lincoln shown at Discovery Centre

BASINGSTOKE Discovery Centre is hosting the next of its free fortnightly film screenings today, with a showing of Lincoln starring Daniel Day Lewis.

The Hollywood actor plays the part of America's most famous president, as he struggles with carnage on the battlefield and fighting many of his own cabinet on the decision to emancipate the slaves.

It starts at 2pm today, with Les Miserables scheduled to be shown at the next screening on September 12.

Drawing contest for children

CENTRAL Studio is staging a drawing competition for children to design the artwork for their next brochure front cover, and is asking youngsters to send their masterpieces in.

Those aged between seven and 11 can use their creativity to draw the perfect brochure cover, with the winning entry being printed on 12,000 copies and featuring on the website.

The competition deadline is November 18. For more information, visit www.centralstudio.co.uk.

Wedding Fair
at **The Hampshire Court Hotel**

Sunday 8th September

The Hampshire Court Hotel
Centre Drive, Binfields Road,
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August 29th
The Sanctuary, Basingstoke
MILITARY ARCADE
3 piece rock band
More at www.militaryarcade.co.uk

31 Aug, 12pm - 7pm
King's Meadow Park
READING PRIDE 2013
Reading Pride supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and asexual (LGBTA) communities throughout the Thames Valley.

30 Aug - 1 Sep
The Haymarket
ROOM ON THE BROOM
All tickets £11.50. BO: 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk.

Friday 6th Sept 7:30pm
Central Studio, Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke
ACOUSTIC OPEN MIC NIGHT
FREE, Come along to play at Central Studio, or just come to hear some of the most talented musicians in Basingstoke. Everybody welcome. Bar available. Free parking BO 01256 418318 www.centralstudio.co.uk

7th September
Basingstoke Blues Club, The Moose Centre, Churchill Way,
THE DAVID RAPHAEL BAND
www.basingstokebluesclub.co.uk

September 5, 8 pm
The Railway, Winchester
BOB LIND WITH SPECIAL GUEST JOSH SAVAGE
As a curtain raiser for the sxsc Festival, we have managed to book Bob Lind, who is in the UK for the End Of The Road Festival. The legendary US singer-songwriter will pay in The Attic and is supported by fast-rising Winchester musician Josh Savage. www.boblind.com Admission £10 www.railwaylive.co.uk

Sun 8th September
Open Day of the Harris Garden, University of Reading.
IN AID OF THE BERKSHIRE GROUP OF THE HPS AND THE FRIENDS OF THE HARRIS GARDEN
Open to the general public. 2pm – 5.30pm
Teas, coffees, cakes and plants for sale. Admission fee

8th Sept, 2pm - 5.30pm.
Harris Garden, The University of Reading, Whiteknights Campus
THE HARRIS GARDEN OPEN DAY
In aid of the Berkshire Group of the Hardy Plant Society and the Friends of the Harris Garden. Admission is £3. There will be afternoon tea and cakes and quality plants for sale. The Harris Garden is near the Harborne Building. Car Park 13. Please use Pepper Lane entrance.

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7th September
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THE DAVID RAPHAEL BAND
www.basingstokebluesclub.co.uk

9th Sept- December 2pm - 4pm
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10th Sept, 7.15pm
St. Peter's Church Hall, Church Road, Earley, Reading, RG6 1EY.
BERKSHIRE GROUP OF THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY
Carolyn Foster will give a talk on Perennial Borders – recent trends. Carolyn is a Professional gardener and designer and a member of the Berkshire Group of the HPS. Doors open at 19.15 and meetings start at 19.45. Visitors welcome with an admission charge of £3.

20 September 2013 7.30pm
The Haymarket
THE FITZROVIA RADIO HOUR
The Fitzrovia Radio Hour, at The Haymarket on Friday 20 September at 7.30pm, is an all new yet delightfully reminiscent look back at ration book Britain. Tickets for The Fitzrovia Radio Hour are priced £16. Over 65s pay £15. (Booking fee applies.) Under 16s and fulltime students pay £10. For more information or for tickets, call the Anvil Arts box office on 01256 844244. Or use the Anvil Arts website www.anvilarts.org.uk.

21 September 7.30pm
The Haymarket
KATHRYN WILLIAMS
Singer/songwriter
Kathryn Williams appears at The Haymarket on Saturday 21 September at 7.30pm. Kathryn's artful compositions and sweet sound have got the critics falling over each other to heap praise on her. She produces music that possesses great depth, addressing both the everyday and abstract. Tickets for Kathryn Williams are priced £16. Over 65s, under 16s and fulltime students pay £14. (Booking fee applies.) For more information or for tickets, call the Anvil Arts box office on 01256 844244. Or use the Anvil Arts website www.anvilarts.org.uk.

21st September, 7.30pm
St Mary the Virgin, Silchester
THE SALTY DOGS JAZZ BAND
Admission £10 (to include glass of wine/soft drink) Tickets from; Ralph Atton 0118 970 0825
Richard Fletcher 0118 970 0633 Richard rand 0118 970 0450
Proceeds to organ restoration fund

21 Sep,
UK Wolf Conservation Trust, Butlers Farm
UK WOLF CONSERVATION TRUST WOLF VIEWING & BAT WALK
An opportunity to have a tour of the Trust & see the wolves, wolf photography & howling sessions. A presentation will then be made by an expert on the life of bats in the UK followed by a tour around the nesting boxes positioned at the Trust to see long eared bats flying. Booking required via website shop/events or 0118 971 3330. £15 per person.

22 Sept, 2.30pm
The Haymarket
THE ELEPHANT BRIDESMAID
The delightful The Elephant Bridesmaid by Steven Lee . Written especially for parents to enjoy with their children, The Elephant Bridesmaid is a magical musical about weddings and wombats and the loveliest elephant the world has ever known. TICKETS £10. (Booking fee applies.) For more information or for tickets, call the Anvil Arts box office on 01256 844244. Or use the Anvil

24 September, 7.45pm
The Forge
CHASTITY BROWN
Don't miss singer and multi-instrumentalist Chastity Brown. Tickets for Chastity Brown are priced at £13. Over 65s, under 16s and full-time students pay £11. (Booking fee applies.)

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Thursday	Four Lanes Community Centre	7.45 pm
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Entertainment

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24 Sept - 7.30pm
The Anvil
THE OSMONDS AMERICAN JUKEBOX TOUR 2013
Direct from the USA, the Osmond Brothers Merrill, Jay and Jimmy appear live in concert at The Anvil on Tuesday 24 September at 7.30pm All tickets for The Osmonds are priced £28.50. (Booking fee applies.)
For more information or for tickets, call the Anvil Arts box office on 01256 844244.
Or use the Anvil Arts website www.anvilarts.org.uk.

25 September 2013 8.15pm
The Forge
AN EVENING WITH SLAID CLEAVES
Tickets for An Evening with Slaid Cleaves are priced at £13. Over 65s, under 16s and full-time students pay £11. (Booking fee applies.) For more information or to book tickets, call the Anvil Arts box office on 01256 844244. Or use the Anvil Arts website www.anvilarts.org.uk.

25th September 7.30pm
Central Studio, Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke
ROMEO & JULIET
Tickets: £10.50 full I £9.50 concessions I £6.00 Students & children Box Office: 01256 418318 www.centralstudio.co.uk/

25 - 26 Sept, 8pm
The Anvil
JASON MANFORD FIRST WORLD PROBLEMS
The show promises to feature a wealth of comedy anecdotes, Suitable for ages 16 and over. All tickets £22.50.
(Booking fee applies.)
Box office on 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk.

9 Oct, 8pm
The Anvil
MILTON JONES ON THE ROAD
Milton is a regular on Mock the Week, Live at the Apollo and has performed several radio series for Radio 4. In 2011, his radio show won a silver Sony Award, was also nominated for a Writers Guild Award in 2012, and has just been commissioned for a tenth series. All tickets £20.
(Booking fee applies.)
Box office on 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk.

11-12th October, 8pm
The Anvil
REGINALD D HUNTER IN THE MIDST OF CRACKERS
In just over a decade since he began performing, Reginald D Hunter has become one of the UK comedy industry's best-known and most distinctive performers with his own blend of humour. His work is often brutally honest, frequently controversial but always meticulously measured and thought out.
Tickets: £23; over 65s and full-time students £21.
(Booking fee applies.) Box office on 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

26 September 8.15pm
The Forge
ANNIE KEATING
Tickets for Annie Keating are priced at £13. Over 65s, under 16s and full-time students pay £11.
(Booking fee applies.) For more information or to book tickets, call the Anvil Arts box office on 01256 844244.
Or use the Anvil Arts website www.anvilarts.org.uk.

20 Oct
Bury Court
ORCHESTRA OF BAMPTON CLASSICAL OPERA W.A MOZART LA FINTA SEMPLICE
Andrew Griffiths (conductor) Jeremy Gray (director) Booking information: On-line at bampton-opera.org/booking Telephone bookings: 01367 810769 "

27th September 7.30pm
Central Studio, Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Rd
Jo Caulfield - Better The Devil You Know [COMEDY]
Tickets: £12.00 full I £10.00 concessions Award-winning comedian and star of Radio 4 brings razor-sharp observations and scandalous stories in a celebration of anger. Box Office: 01256 418318

5th October 11am
Central Studio, Queen Mary's College Cliddesden Rd,
BON JOVIE TRIBUTE SHOW
£10.00 full I £8.00 concession GIG.....TRIBUTE BANd Bon Jovie provide an entertaining and interactive show delivered with a truck load of humour. Share an evening of classic Bon Jovi hits with this highly experienced, international tribute band and then go home feeling like you just partied with a long lost friend.
Box Office: 01256 418318 www.centralstudio.co.uk/"www.centralstudio.co.uk

11th Oct 7:30pm
Central Studio, Queen Mary's College Cliddesden Road
NICE
£6.00 full I £5.00 children
Box Office: 01256 418318

11 - 19th October, 7.30pm
Silchester Village Hall
'CURTAIN UP ON MURDER', BY BETTINE MANKTELOW
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Their panic increases when one of the actresses is poisoned and it becomes evident that a murderer is in their midst - a murderer who, it soon transpires, will not stop until they are all dead. Tickets cost £8 Adults & £6 Concessions, and can be booked by calling 01189 815600. Further details from www.silchesterplayers.hampshire.org.uk.

12th October 7pm
Central Studio, Queen Mary's College Cliddesden Road
ACOUSTIC OPEN MIC NIGHT
FREE
Come along to play at Central Studio, or just come to hear some of the most talented musicians in Basingstoke. Everybody welcome, from professionals to first time performers. Bar available. Free parking available. Box Office: 01256 418318

17th October
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17th October 7.30pm
Central Studio, Queen Mary's College Cliddesden Road,
LIVE & UNSIGNED
£5 full I £2.50 students
Central Studio brings together the best of Hampshire's talent, showcasing some of the most exciting new musicians. Aimed specifically at up-and-coming bands, Live and Unsigned gives new artists a true gig experience.
Box Office: 01256 418318

22nd October, 7:30pm
Silchester Village Hall
ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES
Silchester Players invite you to open auditions for their January/February 2014 pantomime Minimum age for Junior chorus is 10 years old. Fancy getting involved backstage? Come along and talk to us.
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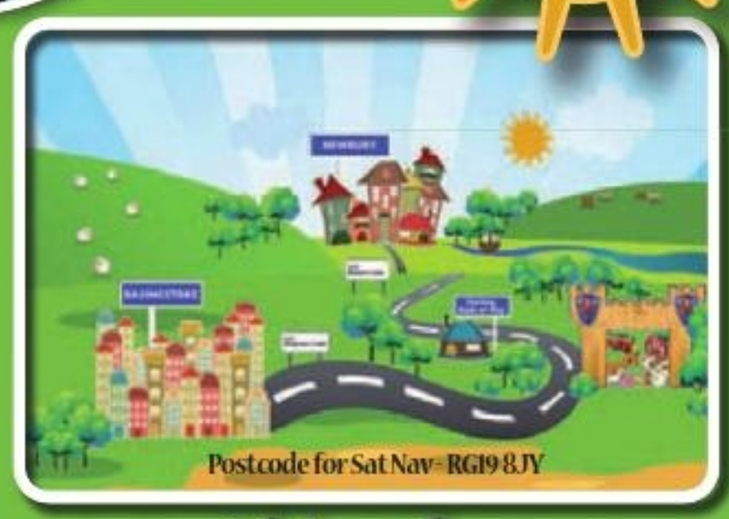

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Competitions

more competitions online at **www.basingstokeobserver.co.uk**

WIN Riddick movie goodies!

IF you like your heroes on the dark and menacing side then September promises to be a great month with the return of Vin Diesel as the infamous Riddick.

At the end of Chronicles of Riddick he seemed to be the most powerful man in known space but in his new movie – simply called Riddick – we see him brought down from on high.

Having been betrayed and left for dead on a sun-scorched planet, Riddick must fight for his survival against the deadly alien predators that exist in the barren landscape.

Activating an emergency beacon doesn't bring help directly, instead teams of mercenaries arrive to fight it out as to who gets to take the galaxy's most wanted (and valuable) oulaw back to justice.

Closing date: Friday, September 13

As you might expect Riddick isn't intending to go along with this…

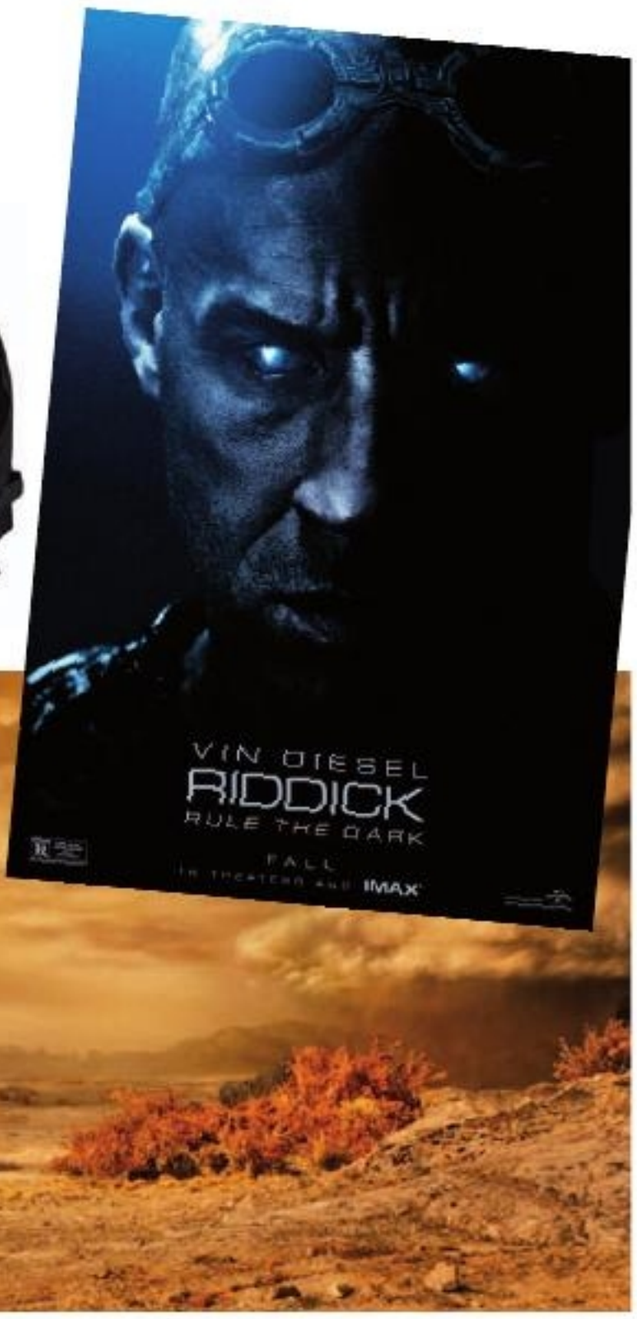
Written and directed by David Twohy the film reunites Diesel with Karl Urban and adds Jori Molla, Dave Bautista and Katee Sackhoff to the mix.

It all promises to be pretty eventful.

For your chance to get in on the action we have five Riddick movie logoed merchandising packs available. Each contains a vest, back-pack, torch and baseball cap.

To be in with a chance of winning one of these packs that will delight any film fan just answer this simple question:

Q: WHAT CHARACTER DID KARL URBAN PLAY IN THE MOVIE *CHRONICLES OF RIDDICK*?



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For full terms & conditions go to basingstokeobserver.co.uk/competitions

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Install a water softener and banish limescale!

Hard water is something we are all used to in the South, although most of us have got used to putting up with it, many do not realise that you can do something about it. It furs up our heating systems, causing breakdowns, makes it more expensive to heat our homes and damages our appliances.

The other problem with limescale is the constant cleaning of showerheads, shower screens, stainless steel sinks, the whole house can suffer where water is concerned. Limescale aggravates skin problems such as eczema and psoriasis.

With a water softener no limescale will get into the house, which means you will have to do less cleaning, stop buying limescale-related products, cut washing powder use by up to 75% and have less chance of large bills for potential future problems with your heating system and appliance breakdowns. If you were to purchase an ordinary softener you would have quite a large machine, which requires you to set clocks and lug around a 25kg bag of salt. The TwinTec S3 is different. It is small, requires no electricity and uses block salt (like two house bricks) instead of heavy bags.

Harvey Softeners has been manufacturing softeners in this area for more than 30 years. Kevin Goody (UK Water Softeners) is one of Harveys top TwinTec dealers and was voted number two in the country last year.

Why is Kevin so successful?

He puts it down to extensive marketing, having a great plumber with over 30 years of experience installing water softeners, good customer satisfaction and recommendations. Kevin has installed 4100 water softeners in homes in this area over the last eighteen years and arranges everything from initial survey to installation.

Get in touch

If you have an old water softener trade it in for something smaller and more efficient by calling Kevin Goody on: 01276 27924 without obligation. Email: kevingoody@uk-water-softeners.co.uk or visit our websites: www.uk-water-softeners.co.uk and www.watersoftenersuk.com

Kevin Goody also welcomes trade enquiries.

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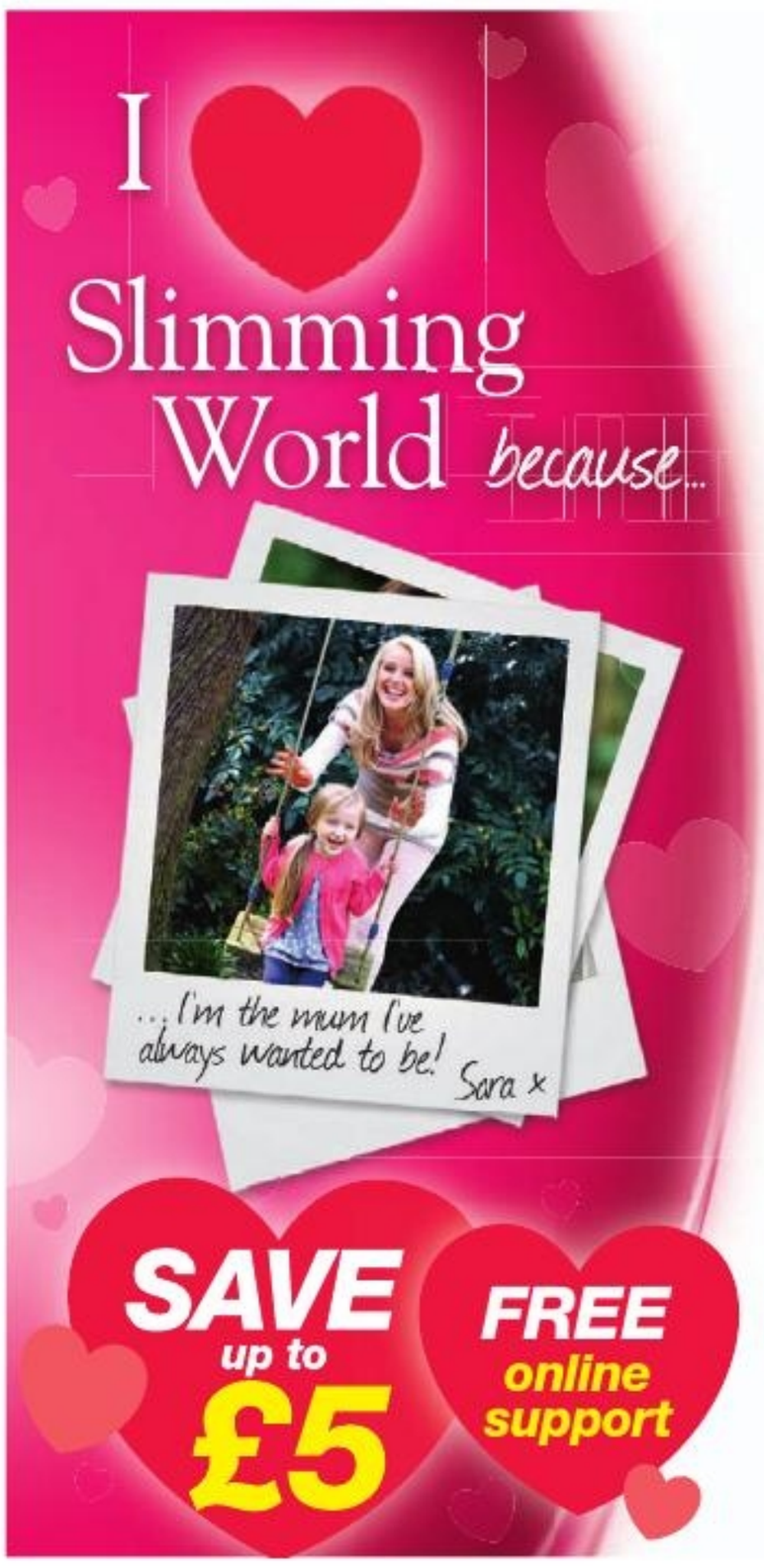

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Basingstoke Rugby Club
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Tel: Jane 07711 422380

Tadley
Ambrose Allen Centre,
Franklin Avenue
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Emma 07795 065042

Oakridge Village
Oakridge Hall for All
Forsythia Walk
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Lizi 07771 346702

TUESDAYS

South Ham
Westside Community Centre
Paddock Road
7.30pm
Tel: Kirsty 07843 276953

Overton
St Lukes Hall
Winchester Street
7.30pm
Tel: Lynn 07885 765341

NEW GROUP
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Fieldgate Centre, Field Gate Drive
Wednesday 7.30pm
9from 4th September
Tel: Lynn 07885 765341

Bramley
Bramley Village hall, The Street
7.30pm
Tel: Kate 0753 869168

Hook
Elizabeth Hall
Raven Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Lizi 07771 346702

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Viables Craft Ctr, The Barn
The Harrow Way
5.30pm and 7.30pm
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Tadley
Ambrose Allen Centre,
Franklin Avenue
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Emma 07795 065042

Popley
Melrose Hall
Abbey Road
9.30am
Tel: Hazel 07796 158098
Kids Corner - Children Welcome

Popley
Melrose Hall
Abbey Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
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THURSDAYS

Chineham
Christ Church
Reading Road
10am
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Kids Corner - Children Welcome

Brighton Hill
Café Dome
Sullivan Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Kaleigh 07788 257889

Chineham
Christ Church
Reading Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Faith 07966 933994

SATURDAY

Oakridge Village
Oakridge Hall for All
Forsythia Walk
9.30am
Tel: Lizi 07771 346702

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES (self employed) for members past and present. For more information contact Carole 01256 476638 or 07976 701459

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Basingstoke Observer

New England in the Fall

from **LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT**

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Visiting Boston, Cape Cod, Newport (Rhode Island), the battlefields of Lexington, Salem - the 'Witch Capital of the World', the coast of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, (including Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory, Cold Hollow Cider Mill and Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks), Stowe and Lake Champlain (including a cruise on the Spirit of Ethan Allen III)

- Return flight from London Heathrow airport to Boston†
- 4 nights stay at the Best Western Royal Plaza hotel, Marlborough with breakfast
- 2 nights stay at the Ogunquit River Plantation hotel, Maine with breakfast
- 3 nights stay at the Holiday Inn Rutland, Vermont with breakfast

OPTION 2:

23 September -3 October and 10-20 October 2013

Visiting Cape Cod, the Island of Martha's Vineyard, the Pilgrim town of Plymouth (and the Plimoth Plantation), Boston, the battlefields of Lexington, Salem, Newport (Rhode Island), New Hampshire, Vermont and Stowe.

- Return flight from London Heathrow airport to Boston†
- 3 nights stay at the Resort and Conference Center, Hyannis with breakfast
- 4 nights stay at the Best Western Royal Plaza hotel, Marlborough with breakfast
- 2 nights stay at the Holiday Inn Rutland, Vermont with breakfast

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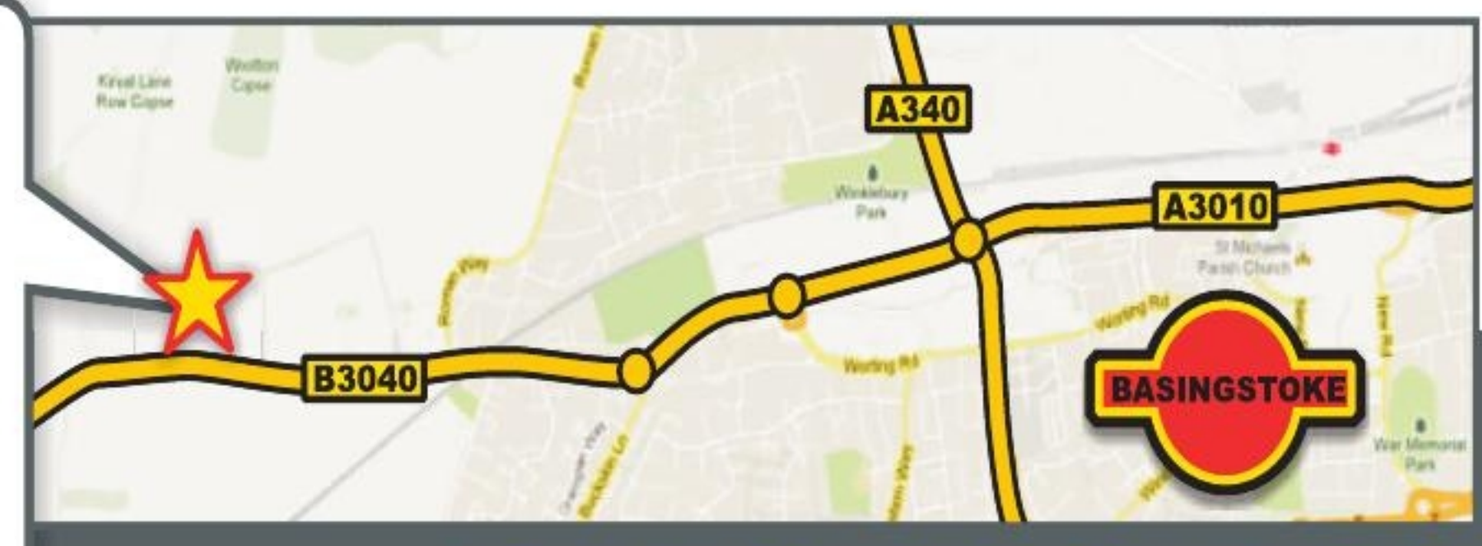

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Let Cascada wash over you

REVIEW: VAUXHALL CASCADA

By **Philip Shoulder**

@writeonmotoring

THE Cascada is Vauxhall's first new mid-sized convertible in 70 years.

It is a full four-seat, fabric-roof convertible which at nearly 4.7 metres in length is longer than an Audi A5 Convertible and positions Vauxhall in a sector that it hasn't occupied since the 1930s.

The model is 4.7 metres in length – more than 70mm longer than Audi's A5 Convertible – with a full-size fabric roof, giving the car a classy and elegant profile, seen in the two official images. The roof can be opened or closed at the touch of a button, even when the car is moving at up to 30mph.

Cascada, a Spanish word meaning waterfall, is the third new name to be introduced by Vauxhall this year, following Mokka and ADAM, and each model is set to be incremental to the company's current line-up.

The Cascada marks Vauxhall's departure from the compact cabrio sector, with which it enjoyed much success with cars like the Astra Mk.3 Convertible and the more recent Astra Twin Top. The Cascada is a full 225mm longer than the Astra Twin Top (which was discontinued in 2010) and now targets rivals in the mid-size sector. Priced from £23,995 – nearly £8,000 less than Vauxhall's premium rival.

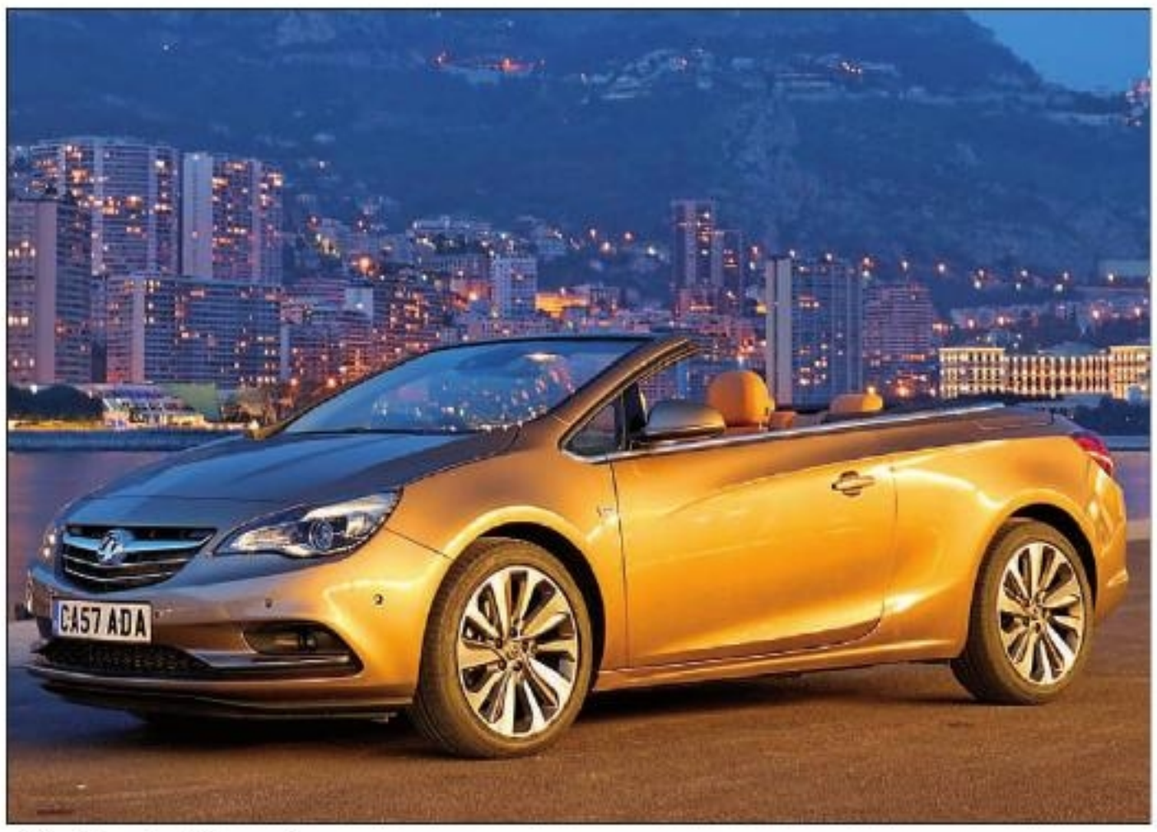
Vauxhall's new full-size, four-seat convertible, the Cascada, priced from £23,995 on-the-road – nearly £8,000 less than its main rival in the premium drop-top sector – when it arrives in showrooms this April.

With the Audi A5 Cabriolet firmly in its sights, the Cascada offers affordability paired with outstanding levels of equipment, technology and luxury. It comes in two trims, with the entry level SE getting 18-inch alloy wheels, a sports chassis, LED tail lamps and aux-in/USB, all as standard. The up-level Elite includes leather trim, heated front seats and steering wheel and front fog lamps.

"Cascada is set to change people's perception of Vauxhall once again," said Duncan Aldred, Vauxhall's Chairman and Managing Director. 'The full-size convertible sector tends only to be occupied by very high-priced cars from premium manufacturers. With Cascada, we're offering customers high levels of equipment, technology and luxury but at an affordable price."

VERDICT

The all-new Cascada is a full-size, four seat convertible with premium qualities and technologies at an affordable, mainstream price.



• *The Vauxhall Cascada*

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11 61 FIESTA 1.6 TDCI 95PS ZETEC S DIESEL, 3dr, panther black met/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, r/CD, alloys, a/c, HFS, ABS, ESP, c/l, 5 airbags, PAS, Blue tooth, FSH, one owner from new, low mileage, £20 RFL per year, 12,200 miles

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12 62 FOCUS NEW MODEL 1.0 100PS PETROL ZETEC, 5dr, moondust silver met/grey, e/w&m, r/CD, 17" alloys, air con, Bluetooth USB, PAS, privacy glass, ABS, ESP, HFS, front fogs, 6 airbags, BALANCE OF MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY, one local owner, low mileage 3,952 miles, £20 RFL

£12,995

10 60 FIESTA ZETEC S 1.6 PETROL, 3dr, panther black met/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, r/CD, alloys, a/c, HFS, Blue tooth, ABS, ESP, c/l, 5 airbags, PAS, FSH, one local owner, service history, 36,243 miles

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10 10 FOCUS 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM DIESEL ESTATE, chill met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, a/c, HFS, auto h/l/wipers, PAS, CD, r/p/s, alloys, , ABS, ESP, one owner, 33,467 miles

£10,491

10 10 C MAX ZETEC 1.6 PETROL, 5 spd, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 a/b, alloys, ABS, ESP, parking sensors, front/rear privacy glass, one owner, FSH,

£9,291

08 08 TOYOTA AYGO 1.0 VVTI PETROL, 5dr, red/grey, 5 spd, e/w, c/l, r/CD, PAS, a/c, 4 airbags, ABS, one owner from new, full Toyota service history, RFL only £20 per year, 20,209

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13 13 FOCUS ECONETIC 1.6 DIESEL, 5dr, panther black met/grey, 6 spd, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio CD, Ford Sync, PAS, a/c, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, cruise, front fogs, traction, 2 year 8 months manufacturers warranty, one local owner, NIL RFL, available on Ford Options Finance scheme - please ask for details, 3,114 miles

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11 11 VW SCIRROCO COUPE GT 2.0 TDI 170PS DIESEL DSG GERBOX, red, black leather interior, 18" alloys, climate control, e/w&m, remote c/l, auto lights/wipers, multiple airbags, radio/CD, front fogs, Bluetooth, trip computer, ABS, 2 owners from new, full VW SH, 60,000 miles

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09 09 VOLVO V70 SE 2.0 DIESEL AUTOMATIC ESTATE, grey met/ full leather trim, heated seats, climate & cruise control, e/w & folding mirrors, r/CD, rear park sensors, roof rails, ABS,

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10 60 VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI 1.7 CDTI DIESEL ECOFLEX, 5dr, white/black, 6 spd, e/w, c/l, 17" alloys, cruise control, e/w, r/CD, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbas, ABS, ESC, one owner from new, FSH, £30 RFL per year, 15,739

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11 11 KUGA 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 4WD 163 POWERSHIFT AUTO, electric white special paint/leather trim, 18" alloys, appearance pack, titanium X pack, convenience pack, 7" touchscreen navigation plus rear parking camera, power converter, deflation detection system, panoramic roof, keyless entry, Ford detachable tow bar, FSH, one owner, 16,826 miles

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10 10 S MAX 1.9 TDCI DIESEL 125 PS TITANIUM, 6 speed, chill met/grey, e/w&m, auto lights & wipers, cruise control, r/CD, alloys, front fogs, HFS, ABS, ESP, a/c, one owner, service history, 43,533 miles

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CLEARANCE

11 11 KUGA 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 4WD 163 POWERSHIFT AUTO, electric white special paint/leather trim, 18" alloys, appearance pack, titanium X pack, convenience pack, 7" touchscreen navigation plus rear parking camera, power converter, deflation detection system, panoramic roof, keyless entry, Ford detachable tow bar, FSH, one owner, 16,826 miles . **WAS £23,995 NOW £19,995**

10 10 S MAX 1.8 TDCI DIESEL 125 PS TITANIUM, 6 speed, chill met/grey, e/w&m, auto lights & wipers, cruise control, r/CD, alloys, front fogs, HFS, ABS, ESP, a/c, one owner, service history, 43,533 miles . . . . . **WAS £13,991 NOW £12,991**

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10 60 VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI 1.7 CDTI DIESEL ECOFLEX, 5dr, white/black, 6 spd, e/w, c/l, 17" alloys, cruise control, e/w, r/CD, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbas, ABS, ESC, one owner from new, FSH, £30 RFL per year, 15,739. . . . . **WAS £10,595 NOW £9,991**

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C MAX S MAX

10 10 C MAX ZETEC 1.6 PETROL, 5 spd, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, alloys, ABS, ESP, parking sensors, front & rear privacy glass, one owner, FSH, very low mileage 12,012 miles **£9,291**

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KA

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07 57 MONDEO 2.0 TDCI DIESEL 140PS 6 SPD, 5dr, panther black met, beige leather trim, climate, e/w&m, c/l, r/6CD, PAS, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 7 airbags, ABS, ESP, rear parking sensors, auto lights & wipers, 2 owners from new, FSH, very low mileage 27,966 miles **£7,795**

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Bountymen's shock setback in quest for league title...

Hartley back from defeat with 6-0 win

HARTLEY Wintney bounced back from their first defeat of the season on Saturday in emphatic style, with a 6-0 demolition of Alton Town

The Row, who are fifth in the table, have won four out of their opening six Combined Counties Premier matches, and have also knocked out Kidlington in the first preliminary qualifying round of the FA Cup.

Their season suffered a dent on Saturday, when they lost 4-0 at third-placed South Park – the first time they have not scored in any match, friendly or competitive, so far this season.

Elsewhere, Whitchurch United are now unbeaten in three games after an impressive 3-0 victory at Downton on Monday night.

Jim Macey's newly-promoted side suffered a difficult opening to the season, losing against both Christchurch and Lymington Town in the Sydenham's Premier League.

However, the Jam Boys seem to have adjusted to life in a higher tier, having beaten Romsey Town on August 13 and battling to a 2-2 at home to Folland Sports on Saturday.

In Sydenham's Division One, Tadley Calleva suffered their first defeat of the season at home to Stockbridge on Saturday.

Tadley are seventh after three games, having won and drawn their opening two matches.

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BASINGSTOKE and North Hants suffered a surprise setback in their quest for the Southern League Two title last weekend.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Dan Coombs' men were comprehensively defeated by mid-tabled Old Tauntonians and Romsey at Romsey Sports Centre on Saturday.

The Bountymen were skittled for just 138 from 35.5 overs. Captain Coombs top scored with 33, and only a gutsy effort from the tail prevented the score from being more embarrassing.

Lewis Benge (20), Callum Coombs (19 not out) and Ryan Connor (14) all chipped in as they rescued Basingstoke from 68-7. Martyn James struck early for the Bountymen in Romsey's innings, by having Stuart Shapland caught by Chris Froud for just eight.

James also trapped Shapland's opening partner Paul Longland LBW, but that was as good as it got for Stoke bowling attack.

Jody Brown (46) and Charlie King (45) put on an unbeaten 96 for the third wicket as the Tauntonians cruised home.

Defeat means Coombs' side are now second in the league, despite title rivals Hursley Park also losing at Totton and Eling.

With just one match left to play, it will all come down to a tense final day of the season this weekend. Basingstoke face Paultons at May's Bounty, while Hursley will hope to fare better against the Tauntonians than Basingstoke did.

Hook and Newnham Basics' hopes of securing a third place finish in National League One were dashed – they needed a victory against current incumbents Liphook and Ripsley, but the match was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Hook are sixth in the division, and take on Andover on Saturday in their final match of the season.

Fellow League One outfit Hartley Wintney snatched victory in dramatic style against Andover at the weekend, and giving them a fighting chance of survival going into the last day of the season.

After restricting the visitors to 200-9 from their 50 overs, Hartley reached 204-8, after brothers Jamie (13 not out) and Mark Teale (1 not out) steered Hartley home on the last ball.

The win moves Hartley off the bottom of the league, and they must also win at Fawley this weekend to pull off an unlikely great escape.

Collard third as he drives to first podium finish of year

ROB Collard scored his first podium finish of the year, after three strong points finishes at Knockhill in the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC).

Collard's third-place finish in race three was the highlight of his best weekend of the season to date, which also saw a fourth and sixth-place result on Sunday.

He said: "It's a bit of a shame we had the problem in qualifying, as without that we would have been in the top three or four and would have started race day where we finished it.

"Race one was fantastic. The car really came alive on the soft tyre and I was able to fight my way forwards, and could then build on that in race two."

Nick Foster had a tougher weekend as he came 16th and 14th in the opening two races, but was able to get an eighth-place finish in the final race of the day.He said: "Eighth was a good result and it was nice to end on a positive on what's been a great weekend for the team."

The results mean Collard is now 14th in the championship with 97 points, with Foster one place further back with 79.

• Rob Collard got his best result of the season with third at Knockhill (Picture courtesy of btcc.net)

Sport Bites

'Stoke beaten

BASINGSTOKE RFC first XV kicked off their pre-season action with defeat at home to Bracknell at the weekend.

Coach James Croker saw his side succumb to a 36-17 defeat at Down Grange on Saturday.

The new National Three London season begins a week on Saturday against East Grinstead.

Croker said: "We've got an honest group of lads and we're very much looking forward to the challenge."

Golden Owen

OWEN Richardson claimed Basingstoke and Mid Hants' only gold at the recent Southern Counties under-15 and under-17 athletics championships in Kent.

Richardson powered home to claim gold in the under-15 300m final, and also claimed silver in the 200m.

Owen's brother Myles won two silvers in the under-17 100m and 200m, and

Katherine Abel secured silver in the under-15 women's javelin.

Bowled over

BASINGSTOKE Town Spades bowling club are celebrating after winning the Whitchurch League Division One.

They comprehensively beat Alton 67-41 last weekend, while second-placed Kingsclere lost at Hook.

St Mary Bourne overcame Howard Park, while Andover A beat Andover B.

Do you have a story to share with our readers?

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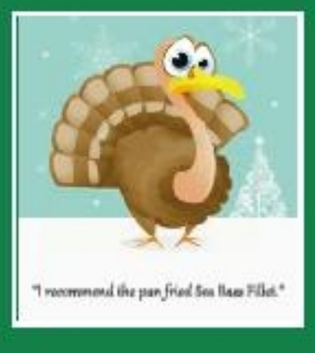

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Inside: Hartley back from defeat with 6-0 win | Bountymen's shock setback in quest for league title... | Bowled over

DRAGONS LOSE WINNING WAYS

'Not acceptable by our standards', says Bristow after first defeat of season

JASON Bristow has called on his players to improve quickly after Monday's defeat at Weston-super-Mare.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Bristow's side came away from Somerset empty-handed after Naby Diallo's goal 16 minutes from time proved the difference between the sides.

It was the only real opportunity in a game that, in the words of the Dragons' boss, "had 0-0 written all over it".

"We didn't really get going on Monday," said Bristow. "We were poor in possession and a bit slow and sluggish out of possession.

"Having said that, the game had 0-0 written all over it, and there were no real chances apart from the goal. As poor as we were, we were disappointed not to come away with a 0-0.

"But by our high standards, that is not acceptable, and we need to put that right on Saturday [against Staines]."

Monday's defeat ended the Dragons' perfect start to the new Skrill Conference South season.

They went into Monday's match with three wins from three, the latest being Saturday's 2-0 triumph over Eastbourne Borough.

And Bristow was very pleased with the discipline his side showed in Saturday's game.

"I thought we were excellent in spells," he said. "And I thought we put in a very disciplined performance, and got stronger as the game went on.

"We frustrated Eastleigh, and the players deserved the win they got."

Goals from Jay Gasson and summer signing Neil Barrett sealed the win for the Dragons, and Bristow is delighted that goals are coming from other sources so early in the season.

"We've scored goals from all over the pitch. Jay has chipped in with two, Neil one from midfield and the forwards have got on the scoresheet as well, so that's pleasing.

"We analysed the four games we've played, and we've conceded very few chances, and only let in three goals, so that's also good.

"Three wins out of four isn't a bad start at all, and the players can start to believe that we can go on and build on the start that we've made.

"Hopefully we can put ourselves in a good position in the coming weeks."

• Kezie Ibe is denied a goalscoring opportunity by Weston-super-Mare keeper Luke Purnell (Picture by Les Chase)

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